

This issue:	Getting the Word Out - Summer Reading PSAs	2	Teen Mysteries	4	Who's Reading What This Summer?	6
	Pitching Your Summer Reading Program by Phone	2	Mr. Monk Gets a Clue this Summer	4	Writing the West	6
	CCLD Summer Reading Tips	3	Tip Sheet for Adult Summer Reading Programs	4	Great Summer Picks for Teens	7
	What Can Families Do to Keep Children Reading During the Summer?	3	Think Pink	5	Summer Reading Quick Facts	8
			Backseat Scavenger Hunt	5	Happy Birthday Alfred Hitchcock Film-Fest	8

HOT SUMMER READING



Summer reading programs began in the 1890s as a way to encourage school children, particularly those in urban areas and not needed for farm work, to read during their summer vacation, use the library and develop the habit of reading.

From that auspicious beginning, summer reading programs are now an integral part of many children's lives – wherever they live and whether or not they help around the farm or ranch. While summer reading has seen many changes over the last 110+ years, the goal has remained the same: to get people, especially children, into the library and to develop the habit of reading.

This issue of *Big Sky Libraries* provides lots of tips and resources for librarians to use. While you may have many of the details of your summer reading program worked out, we hope that you will find some of our programming ideas, reading lists, and marketing tips helpful. You'll also find ideas

to celebrate Alfred Hitchcock's birthday inside, as well as a number of ideas on hosting a party commemorating everyone's favorite sleuth, the Pink Panther. And, it's not too late to get an adult summer reading program in gear – we've got tips on how for you inside!

In this issue, you'll also find lots of ways to help parents to keep their kids reading – from fun car games to family projects. Just visit <http://msl.mt.gov/admin/bsl> to print these ideas out and to have an easy, and much appreciated, resource to share with the parents of your youngest patrons. And if you are having trouble getting teens into the library, we've got a booklist you can print out and share, as well as some great tips on hosting a murder mystery party at your library for teens.

Have a great summer! And thanks for getting Montana reading!

For more resources for this and future summer reading programs, please check out some (or all!) of the following books!

- 52 Programs for Preschoolers: The Librarian's Year-round Planner / Diane Briggs. Chicago: American Library Association, 1997.
- Books to Build On: A Grade-by-grade Resource Guide for Parents and Teachers / edited by John Holdren and E.D. Hirsch, Jr. New York: Delta, 1996.
- Choosing Books for Children: A Common-sense Guide / Betsy Hearne; with Deborah Stevenson. 3rd ed. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1999.
- Cool Story Programs for the School-Age Crowd / Rob Reid. Chicago: American Library Association, 2004.
- Fiore's Summer Library Reading Program Handbook / Carole D. Fiore. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2005.
- Running Summer Library Reading Programs: A How to Do It Manual/ Carole D. Fiore. New York: Neal-Schuman, 1998.
- Something Funny Happened at the Library: How to Create Humorous Programs for Children and Young Adults / Rob Reid. Chicago: American Library Association, 2002.
- Summer reading clubs: complete plans for 50 theme-based library programs / by Martha Seif Simpson. Jefferson, N.C. : McFarland, 1992.
- Summer reading program fun: 10 thrilling, inspiring, wacky board games for kids / Wayne L. Johnson; Yvette C. Johnson. Chicago: American Library Association, 1999.
- Twenty Tellable Tales: Audience Participation Folktales for the Beginning Storyteller / Margaret Read MacDonald. Chicago: American Library Association, 2005.

Getting the Word Out — Summer Reading PSAs

by Linda Wallace, Library Communications Strategies, Inc.

PR
Corner

Getting summer reading announcements of your summer reading programs on the air is one of the best ways to get the word out. But like most everything else, you are more likely to enjoy success (and save yourself work) if you have a plan.

Most radio and TV stations air public service announcements at no cost, as their airtime permits. Although they may not air in prime time, these spots may still reach a considerable audience and add to the wave of publicity that you are trying to build.

Both radio and TV stations receive many requests. The best way to make sure your spot gets used is to follow the guidelines they provide. You also can make your job easier by following these tips.

1. Allow plenty of time. Stations try to schedule spots in a timely way, but this is often challenging because of how many they receive. The general rule is first come, first served. You will want to approach them at least six weeks in advance of when you hope to have the spot run.

2. Compile a list of radio and TV stations that are willing to run public service spots and whether they accept taped spots and which format they prefer. Guidelines can often be found on the station's Web page under Community. Also make sure the station's audience is appropriate for the tone and content of the message. If the station doesn't accept taped spots, check for other opportunities such as a Calendar of Events.

3. Call (or email) first to find out if the spot is of interest and in the preferred format. The person to contact is generally the public service or

community affairs director. This person gets deluged with requests for announcements and will be both appreciative and more receptive if you only approach them about announcements that are appropriate for their station.

4. Once you have established that the station is interested/willing, ask for an appointment to personally drop off the tape and view/listen to with the director.

You may also want to ask about having a personalized tagline added for your library... Something simple like "Sign up today at all (number) Library branches." or, "For more information, call..." Many stations will do this as a courtesy both to you and their listeners/viewers.

5. If the PSA contact declines a visit but agrees to review the spot, be sure to include the script, a brief note, and your contact information. If you don't hear back in five working days, follow up with a call.

6. Last but not least, be sure to thank the Public Service Director for their cooperation in running/reviewing the spot.

For future reference, you may want to ask those who sign up to fill out a brief questionnaire asking how they heard about the summer reading program—was it a newspaper, radio or TV announcement - which one? Providing feedback to media outlets is another way of thanking them for this service and letting them know it is effective. Better yet, knowing the answer will help you target your publicity more effectively next time.

Pitching Your Summer Reading Program by Phone

Calling the media on the phone is one of the most important aspects of media outreach, but many times, it is the first thing that drops off your list when you're busy. Think about carving out a set amount of time on a weekly basis to contact and develop relationships with media who will be able to deliver when you need to get some visibility for your programs and services.

Create and Practice the Pitch - In order to ensure as much success as possible for your media event, you are encouraged to create a phone pitch to keep in front of you while talking to media on the phone. Think about the event you are trying to get coverage for and create a short description of the most important points you want to convey to a journalist or reporter on the other line. If you are nervous or haven't done much pitching before, take some time out and practice your phone pitch with a co-worker or friend. The more you say it out loud, the more comfortable you will feel when it is time to speak with the media.

Consider Different Angles - Make sure you have different angles to offer the journalist or reporter to whom you are pitching your event. To be safe, practice two or three different ideas that you can pitch over the phone.

Pitch the Right Person - Most importantly, you want to make sure that you are talking to the appropriate person. If you want a photographer to attend your event, make sure you are calling someone from the photo desk, not the technology desk. If you get in touch with someone who doesn't cover that beat any longer, ask if they know of anyone else in the department that you could speak with about your event.

Always Start off the Conversation by Asking if this is a Good Time to Talk - Proceed with your pitch. Have a media advisory ready to go. Often the person you are speaking with will ask you to e-mail or fax the information to them. It's ok if you don't have all the answers to the questions the person on the other line may ask you. Make sure to write down the questions they ask and get a phone number and a good time for you to convey the right information, or get an e-mail address.

Keep a Phone Log of all Your Calls - Mark down what day you called and whether or not you left a message or sent information over. This will come in handy when you make your second or third round of calls.

Excerpted from the American Library Association's *A Communications Handbook for Libraries*, published in Summer of 2004. To see *A Communications Handbook for Libraries* in full, please visit: <http://www.ala.org/>

Find this and more great info at <http://whatsyourstory.ws>

What's your
STORY?
Find it at the library



Here are some great summer reading tips to share with the parents of your youngest patrons.

CCLD Summer Reading Tips

The Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities has developed its own list of tips for parents to make summer reading enjoyable, particularly for children with learning disabilities. Like RIF's suggestions, CCLD's recommendations include reading aloud, setting a good example, and going to the library regularly. In addition, they have a few other helpful ideas:

Read the same book your child is reading and discuss it. This is a great way to use books as a bonding tool.

Let kids choose what they want to read, and don't turn your nose up at popular fiction. A bad attitude toward certain books will only discourage the reading habit.

Buy books on tape, especially for a child with a learning disability. Listen to tapes in the car, or turn off the TV and have the family listen to them together.

Subscribe, in your child's name, to magazines like *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *Highlights for Children*, or *National Geographic Kids*. Encourage older children to read the newspaper and current events magazines, in order to keep up the reading habit over the summer and develop vocabulary. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.

Ease disappointment over summer separation from a favorite school friend by encouraging them to become pen pals. Present both children with postcards or envelopes that are already addressed and stamped. If both children have access to the Internet, e-mail is another option.

Make trips a way to encourage reading by reading aloud traffic signs, billboards, and notices. Show your children how to read a map, and once you are on the road, let them take turns being the navigator.

Encourage children to keep a summer scrapbook. Tape in souvenirs of your family's summer activities, postcards, ticket stubs, photos, etc. Have your children write the captions and read them aloud as you look at the book together.

What Can Families Do to Keep Children Reading During the Summer?

by Laura J. Colker, Ed. D., RIF Exchange Show #407

As children's first and most important teachers, families have a major role to play in motivating children to read during the summer months. There are many strategies families might employ to encourage summertime reading. Here are tips offered by Reading Is Fundamental:

Combine activities with books.

Summer leaves lots of time for kids to enjoy fun activities, such as going to the park, seeing a movie, or going to the beach. Why not also encourage them to read a book about the activity? If you're going to a baseball game, suggest your child read a book about a favorite player beforehand. In the car or over a hot dog, you'll have lots of time to talk about the book and the game.

Visit the library.

If your child doesn't have a library card, summer is a great time to sign up. In addition to a wide selection of books to borrow, many libraries have fun, child-friendly summer reading programs.

Lead by example.

Read the newspaper at breakfast, pick up a magazine at the doctor's office, and stuff a paperback in your beach bag. If kids see the adults around them reading often, they will understand that literature can be a fun and important part of their summer days.

Talk it up.

Talking with your kids about what you have read also lets them know that reading is an important part of your life. Tell them why you liked a book, what you learned from it, or how it helped you—soon they might start doing the same.

Help kids find time to read.

Summer camp, music lessons, baseball games, and videos are all fun things kids like to do during the summer. However, by the end of the day, children may be too tired to pick up a book. When planning summer activities with children, remember to leave some time in their schedules for reading. Some convenient times may be before bedtime or over breakfast.

Relax the rules for summer.

During the school year, children have busy schedules and often have required reading for classes. Summer is a time when children can read what, when, and how they please.

Don't set daily minute requirements or determine the number of pages they should read. Instead, make sure they pick up books for fun and help find ways for them to choose to read on their own. You may even want to make bedtime a little bit later if you find that your child can't put down a book.

Have plenty of reading material around.

Storybooks aren't the only thing that kids can read for fun. Be sure to have newspapers, magazines, and informational material on hand that might spark the interest of a young reader.

Use books to break the boredom.

Without the regular school regimen, adults and kids need more activities to fill the hours. Books that teach kids how to make or do something are a great way to get kids reading and keep them occupied. Don't forget to take your kids' favorite reading series along on long road trips.

Read aloud with kids.

Take your children to see a local storyteller or be one yourself. The summer months leave extra time for enthusiastic read-alouds with children, no matter what their age. Don't forget to improvise different voices or wear a silly hat to make the story that much more interesting!



Summer Programming...

Short on Program ideas? Here are some last-minute fun programs for Readers of all ages!

TEEN MYSTERIES

Get Teens Into the Library to Help Solve a Murder Mystery

Erin Downey Howerton, head of the Young Adult Department at the Hays, Kansas Public Library has developed these easy tips to get teens to use the library to solve a murder mystery.

By following these simple steps, you can throw a murder mystery party while helping teens rediscover the library and library resources.

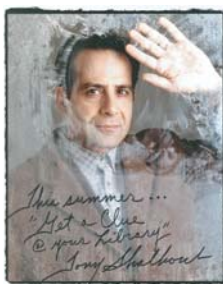
- 1) Create a fictional person to be killed. Do a short little biographical sketch (why were they in the library that night? how did they die?).
- 2) Look through the library catalog for books/materials that relate to the murder and theme of the party. Those call numbers and/or titles can be clues (our vertical file of Kansas Accidental Death Reports got a real workout one night!). This will help you build the back story—why would someone murder that person?
- 3) Come up with some crime scene evidence. We have used our own shoes, earrings, etc. as red herrings ("But I FOUND it by the body!!!"), perhaps another book or video whose title will point them in the right direction... props like a purse or a grocery list filled with incriminating items are always good.
- 4) Put together clues for the staffers/volunteers/YAs that are characters in the mystery to "slip" to persistent detectives. Use the call numbers, a fake chart of blood types (was the blood at the scene really that of the person killed?), secret "information" about the other characters, fake timesheets, etc. Try to include at least one red herring to be given by the murderer or someone trying to incriminate someone else; this makes it more of a challenge!
- 5) By this time, the storyline will have coalesced and all the little bits and pieces you have found can be neatly tied into a murder mystery plotline.
- 6) Be sure to brief your library staff and other participants in advance so they can get into character!

Mr. Monk Gets a Clue this Summer!!!

Everyone's favorite quirky detective is doing his part to help with summer reading programs. You can download autographed pictures of Tony from the "What's Your Story" Web site at <http://msl.mt.gov/WhatsYourStory/Tools/posters.htm>

Many thanks to the California Summer Reading program for sharing such an incredible resource!!!

Check out the official MONK Web site for more information on Tony Shaloub, including the fact that he is also the show's Executive Producer.



Tip Sheet for Adult Summer Reading Programs

Ideas That Work For Adults

- Set small reading goals: four books for the summer is a popular number.
- Alternative: small number of minutes per day (for example, 20).
- Set or suggest categories to choose reading from (opportunity to teach about and promote reader advisory tools like Novelist, where available).
- Incentives: coupons or gift certificates to bookstores, music shops, gift shops, other local businesses of interest to adults.
- Allow or even encourage alternative formats, such as:
 - Audiobooks (for commuters and visually impaired).
 - Large print.
 - Newspapers or magazines (good for counting minutes).
- Have a grand prize drawing.

Intergenerational Projects

- Host a mystery writers workshop and author visit.
- Discovery Boxes (younger children search for objects in boxes created by adults)
- Mystery Guest: Invite a mystery guest to your library – park ranger, police detective. Display hats appropriate to your guest and let families guess which one fits the guest.
- Family Read-In
 - Adults who read any book over 100 pages long to their children (at least one ten or older) could enter a weekly drawing for prizes.



Adult Projects

- Invite a local police detective for a program on fingerprints or forensic science.
- Unsolved Mysteries – Invite a local newspaper reporter or historian to talk about unsolved community mysteries.
- Programs on histories and mysteries – invite a local historian to talk about Egyptian mysteries.
- Author readings/talks, book discussions, summer book clubs.
- Bibliography ideas
 - Mysteries from the Past.
 - Science Mysteries.
 - Real Life Mysteries.

THINK PINK

Courtesy of the California Summer Reading Program
www.summerreading.cla-net.org



After obtaining permission to do so (available at movlic.com), show the original 1964 *Pink Panther* movie and enjoy!

Before the movie, play Panther Jeopardy.

Award a prize to the best Clouseau look-alike.

Have an audience sing-along or invite groups or individuals to "sing" the theme song. Reward their courage with a prize.

Set up a "spy store" like the one owned by Clouseau's designer Auguste Balls. Set out pieces of clothing and several items and invite people to create their own disguises. Reward the most unique, humorous, and bizarre creations.

Serve pink refreshments: lemonade, animal cookies, M&Ms, jelly beans, or Hostess sno balls or bake your own pink cake at www.leitesculinaria.com/columns/snowballs.html

Pink Panther Clipart

http://www.clipartguide.com/clipart_cartoons/rad_PINKP8.GIF

<http://www.high-tech.com/panther/source/graphics.html>

Pink Panther Circle Craft

http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mcircle_pinkpanther.htm

Pink Panther 17" Plush

Price \$8.95 www.shop.com/op/~Pink_Panther_17_Plush-prod-29336007 (see plush in 1st column)

Other plush on ebay:

<http://search.ebay.com/>



Books for more ideas

Pink Panther: the Ultimate Guide to the Coolest Cat in Town by Jerry Beck, DK, 2005, ISBN: 0756610338

The Pink Panther Entertains: Cocktails and Appetizers for the Purrfect Party by Lisa Skolnik, Adam Rocke. ISBN: 1572840803



pink panther jeopardy

Suggested Categories

Real Characters - (the actors and actresses), **Hiding in Plain Sight** - Clouseau's disguises throughout the years, **Fill in the Blank** - a spotlight of famous lines, **He's Ba-ack!** - sequels and cartoons, and **Behind the Scenes** - settings, music, etc.

Sample Q. & A.

Real Characters

Answer: He played Sir Charles Lytton, notorious jewel chief and lovable cad.

Question: Who is Sir David Niven?

Fill in the Blank

Answer: That is not my ____.

Question: What is dog?

He's Ba-ack!

Answer: The number of Pink Panther films starring Peter Sellers.

Question: What is seven?

Behind the Scenes

Answer: The director!

Question: Who is Blake Edwards?

Hiding in Plain Sight

Answer: One of Clouseau's best disguises was this artist.

Question: Who is Toulouse Letrec?



Another Ready Tip to Share with Parents

Backseat

Scavenger Hunt



If you prepare a backseat scavenger hunt for a long car ride, your children may be too busy looking out the window to notice how long you've been on the road.

Source: The RIF Guide to Encouraging Young Readers

Ages: Prereaders, beginning readers, older readers

Materials: Paper and pencil

Before you head out, make up a long list of various things your children are likely to see from the car (or bus or train) window. For example: a license plate beginning with the letter C, an old tire, a tow truck, an overpass, a city that is named after a woman, a McDonalds restaurant, a silo, and so on.

Give the children the long list to work on together or divide up the list so that each child is looking for different items. Or let them make up lists for each other. For children who can't yet read, make a picture list by cutting out magazine pictures of signs and other common roadside attractions, like cows and pay telephones. Glue the cutouts on a piece of paper.

The children cross items off their lists or circle the pictured objects as they find them. If they wish, they can call out when they see something so the other players can corroborate. Let the winner of the backseat scavenger hunt be the first one out of the car when you stop to stretch your legs, or the one who gets to ride in the front seat for a while.

who's reading what this summer?

Governor Brian Schweitzer

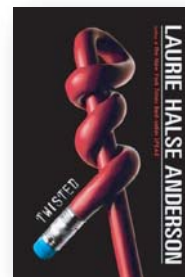
- "The Long Walk: The True Story of a Trek to Freedom" by Slavomir Rawicz - about WWII escaped prisoners who walk from Siberia to India.
- "Huey Long" by T. Harry Williams - an American political biography.
- Current read: "Copper Chorus" by Dennis L. Swibold - about mining, politics, and the Montana press, 1889 - 1959.



Lynn McKinney

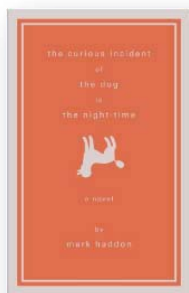
MLA President and librarian at Billings Senior High School
As a young adult librarian, I'm always trying to keep up and these are the books I'd recommend for good summer reads - for an adult or young adult - I'm hoping to get through them myself this summer!

- "The History of Love" by Nicole Krauss
- "The Maximum Ride Series" by James Patterson
- "Darfur Diaries" by Jen Marlowe
- "Twisted" by Laurie Halse Anderson
- "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" by J.K. Rowling
- "The Road" by Cormac McCarthy
- "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls
- "Nineteen Minutes" by Jodi Picoult



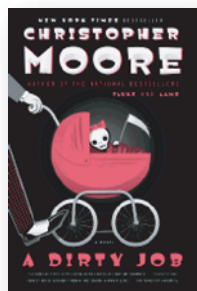
First Lady Nancy Schweitzer

- "Three Junes" by Julia Glass - a family story set in both England and America over three fateful summers.
- "Ursula, Under" by Ingrid Hill - a family story about a little girl who falls into a mine shaft.
- "The Piano Tuner" by Daniel Mason - about a man in Burma during the 1880's.
- "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" by Mark Haddon - written from the perspective of an autistic child in England.

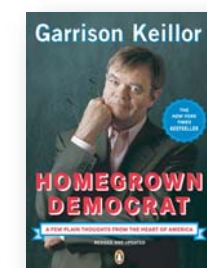


John Clayton

Montana author: "The Cowboy Girl"
Right now I'm reading Fitzgerald's "Tender is the Night." My wife, Kari, is reading Christopher Moore's "A Dirty Job," and laughing pretty hard at it, which makes me eager to pick it up as soon as she's done. New releases I'm looking forward to include Michael Punke's "Last Stand" and Christopher Buckley's "Boomsday."



A couple of summers ago Kari & I both read Guy Vanderhaeghe's "The Last Crossing" (this year's One Book Montana) and found it a great summer read.



Pat Williams

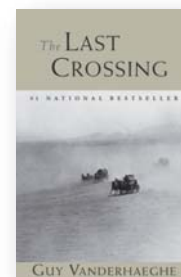
Former Montana Congressman
Baseball, politics, and history close to home will enlighten our summer reading with:

- "The Entitled" by Frank Deford
- "Homegrown Democrat" by Garrison Keillor
- "The Day the World Ended at Little Bighorn" by Joseph Marshall.

Mark Sherouse

Executive Director for the Montana Committee for the Humanities

For me, I just finished re-reading Guy Vanderhaeghe's "The Last Crossing" - our 2007 One Book Montana selection. (Everyone should read it!). I am currently reading Christopher Hitchens' "God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything." And I plan next to read Walter Kirn's recent "The Unbinding." Then perhaps Ian McEwan's new "On Chesil Beach." Then I plan to tackle a bunch of works related to our 2007 Montana Festival of the Book.



Neil McMahon

Montana author: "Lone Creek"
My top priority for this summer's reading is Deirdre McNamer's "Red Rover." As a mystery/thriller writer, I also keep tabs on my betters in that field. "The Overlook," by Michael Connelly, and "Stalin's Ghost," by Martin Cruz Smith, are next on my list.



Some More Favorite Peoples' Favorite Books

Dave Barry - "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger
Jimmy Buffet - "Don't Stop the Carnival" by Herman Wouk
Roger Ebert - "Crime and Punishment" by Dostoyevsky
Bill Gates - "The Great Gatsby"
Ted Nugent - "Call of the Wild" by Jack London
Steven Spielberg - "Treasure Island" by Robert Louis Stevenson

Writing

Interested in catching up on some books about the West this summer? Try these hot titles:

- Kathleen Alcalá's latest is "The Desert Remembers My Name: On Family and Writing."
- In Kirby Larson's Newbery Honor book, "Hattie Big Sky," a strong young woman homesteader tries to prove up on her uncle's Montana claim.
- Linked poems in the voices of pioneer women and children form Jana Harris's "We Never Speak of It: Idaho-Wyoming Poems, 1889-1900."
- "A Sudden Country," Karen Fisher's debut novel, tells a love story set on the Oregon Trail of 1847.

great summer picks for teens

Getting teens to read is easy when you provide this great list of suggested reads for them to choose from.

NON FICTION

Freedman, Russell: "Children of the Great Depression" (Golden Kite Awards)--An account in words and photos of the Great Depression from the perspective of the children who lived through it.

Jurmain, Suzanne: "Forbidden School-house" (BCCB Blue Ribbon Book Awards)--In 1831, in the face of much violent opposition, Prudence Crandall allowed an African-American teenager to enroll in her CT school for white children.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell: "Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow" A fascinating—and chilling—account of life in Hitler's Youth Organization.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Bruchac, Joseph: "Code Talker"--During WWII, Ned is trained by the U.S. Marines to be a Code Talker—a soldier who uses the Navajo language as military code for radio messages.

Duble, Kathleen Benner: "The Sacrifice" 10-year old Abigail is accused of witchcraft and imprisoned during the 17th Century Salem trials.

Kadohata, Cynthia: "Weedflower" After the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Sumiko and her family are sent by the American government to live at an internment camp in the Sonoran desert.

FANTASY

Delaney, Joseph: "Revenge of the Witch" (series)--Om, the seventh son of a seventh son, works as a "spook" apprentice, learning to protect ordinary folks from ghouls, beasts, and other wicked creatures.

Gardner, Sally: "I, Coriander"--In 17th Century England, Coriander, a girl who has inherited magical power from her mother, must discover how to harness this magic to save herself.

Griffin, Adele: "Where I Want to Be" (National Book Award Finalist) Rose and Lily, two teenage sisters, are separated by death but remain connected as they work toward accepting change, loss, and mistakes of the past.

SCIENCE FICTION

Anderson, M.T.: "Whales on Stilts" Three middle school students must stop a mad scientist from taking over the world with an army of whales.

Fox, Helen: "Eager"--The Bell family's new robot, Eager, is programmed not merely to obey, but to reason, question, and use his own free will.

Halam, Ann: "Siberia"--In a bleak future in which almost no animals survive, 14-year old Sloe spends two years in prison school before embarking on a dangerous quest across a frozen wasteland.

REALISTIC FICTION

Birdsall, Jeanne: "The Penderwicks" (National Book Award) While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire mountains, four sisters share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

Dickens, Charles: "Oliver Twist"--The classic story of Oliver, an 19th Century orphan forced into thievery to survive on the London streets.

Jansen, Hanna: "Over a Thousand Hills I Walk With You"--After surviving terrible violence in her home country of Rwanda, Jeanne is adopted by a German family, and, as she grows older, struggles to come to terms with her past.

MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

Abrahams, Peter: "Behind the Curtain: an Echo Falls Mystery"--An avid Sherlock Holmes fan, 8th grader Ingrid Levin-Hill is kidnapped while investigating mysterious happenings in her home town.

Balliett, Blue: "Chasing Vermeer" 11-year olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to investigate an international art scandal.

Ingold, Jeanette: "Mountain Solo" After a disastrous performance, Tess, a teenage violin prodigy, spends the summer in Montana with her father and considers giving up music.

ADVENTURE/SUSPENSE

Roberts, Willo Davis: "Blood On His Hands"--While on the run from the police, young Marc attempts to find his long-lost father for assistance.

Hobbs, Will: "Wild Man Island"--After slipping away from his kayaking group, 14-year old Andy is stranded on Admiralty Island in Alaska.

Lee, Tanith: "Piratica"--16-year old Art leads a pirates' adventure on the high seas featuring sword fights, stormy weather, and deadly canon shots.



SPORTS

Baskin, Nora Raleigh: "Basketball (or Something Like It)"--Hank, Nathan, Jeremy, and Anabel deal with the pressures and excitement of middle school basketball.

Coy, John: "Crackback"--Under the pressures of a new football coach, a critical father, and a best friend with bad ideas, Miles's love for the game begins to fade.

Roberts, Kristi: "My Thirteenth Season" 13-year old Fran abandons her dream of becoming the first female professional baseball player after a coach attacks her for being "just a girl."



State Librarian's Office

Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian
Kris Schmitz, Central Services

Montana State Library Commission

Donald Allen, Chair
Bonnie Allen
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Summer Reading Quick Facts

- Most adults (83 percent) rate library services to children as "very important."
- Children who attend library summer reading programs read significantly better than children who attend a camp program.
- Children's attitudes toward reading get more negative as they grow older. Negative attitudes are associated with lesser ability. Girls have more favorable attitudes than boys.
- More than any other public institution, including schools, the public library contributes to the intellectual growth of children during the summer.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/projects/partners/FactsTK.htm>



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Summer Programming Happy Birthday Alfred Hitchcock Film-Fest



Alfred Hitchcock was a great film director whose career spanned more than 50 years both on the big and little screens. More than that, Hitchcock was a master storyteller who delighted in involving audiences in plot twists and turns, and he paced his films to best affect his audience. To watch a Hitchcock film is to surrender your time and attention to surprise and amazement—and one is rarely disappointed.

Because his career was so lengthy, libraries who choose to host a Hitchcock Film Festival have many titles to choose from, and few of his films are unsuitable for a general audience.

Hitchcock movies lend themselves to audience participation games. You can challenge your library audience to:

Spot the Hitchcock Cameos In later films, Hitchcock made his appearance early on so that audiences would pay attention to the film and stop watching for him!

Spot the MacGuffin For the novice Hitchcock fan, a MacGuffin is a plot element that ends up meaning nothing at all to the film's outcome. There's at least one in each of his films.

Create your own! Depending on your program's focus, you can set up a simple game sheet and offer a small prize to the winner(s) - maybe a copy of the film, or maybe a mystery paperback? You decide.

Some Suggested Films

Blackmail (1929)
Murder! (1930)
Skin Game (1931)
The Lady Vanishes (1938)
Mr. & Mrs. Smith (1941)
Suspicion (1941)
Rope (1948)
Strangers on a Train (1951)
To Catch a Thief (1955)
North by Northwest (1959)
The Birds (1963)
Frenzy (1972)



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